

Trimorpha elata (Hook.) Nesom
tall bitter fleabane
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G4?S1

General Description: Biennial or perennial; peduncles and involucre nearly or quite glandless; basal leaves lance-like or spatulate, stem leaves often somewhat reduced; inflorescence corymbiform; corollas thread like and flexuous; rays white, numerous, short, very narrow, disks yellow; rayless female flowers present between the rays and central disk flowers; involucre bracts acuminate to long-attenuate; pappus longer than disk flowers; achenes many-nerved.

Identification Tips: *T. elata* differs from the similar species *Erigeron acris* var. *asteroides* and *Erigeron acris* var. *debilis* in having peduncles and involucre which are nearly glandless, and a generally swampy habitat. *Erigeron acris* var. *asteroides* and *Erigeron acris* var. *debilis* have glandular peduncles and involucre, and both are generally found in rocky places.

Phenology: Flowering occurs from June through September.

Range: The species occurs in Labrador and Newfoundland to British Columbia and Alaska, extending south to Washington, where it is peripheral in Okanogan County.

Habitat: *Trimorpha elata* occurs in wet, swampy places in open areas and alongside creeks. Associated species are mainly grasses.

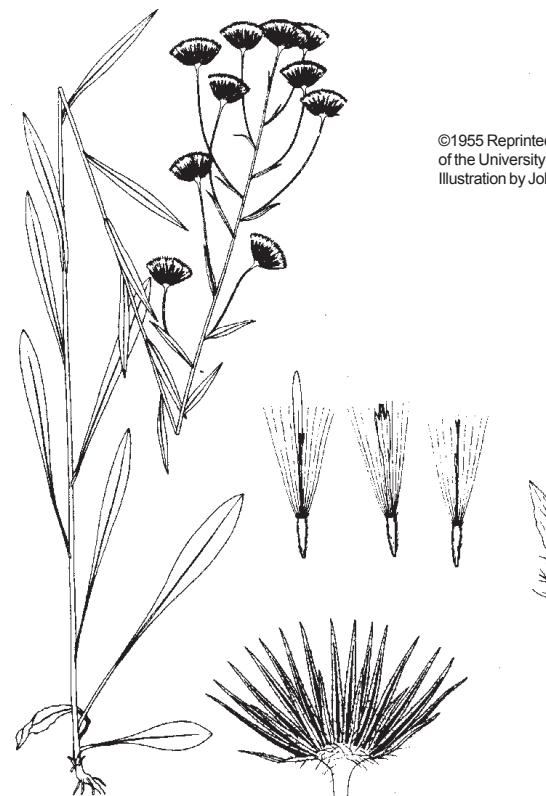
Ecology: Very little is known about the ecology of this taxon. Plants in Washington have been found growing slightly upland from the wettest areas.

State Status Comments: This species is known only from Washington in the continental United States. Two recent sightings are reported from Okanogan County.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed.

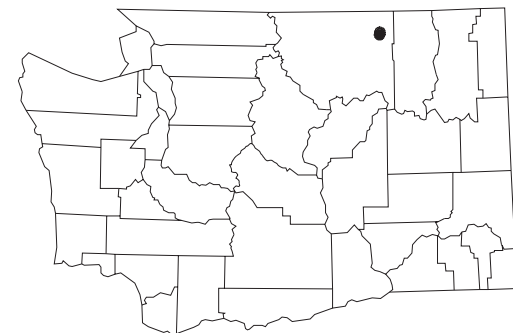
Threats and Management Concerns: Hydrologic alteration.

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Known distribution of
Trimorpha elata
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Mark Sheehan



Photo by Mark Sheehan

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Comments: A synonym for this species is *Erigeron elatus* (USDA), and Hitchcock refers to this plant as *Erigeron acris* var. *elatus*.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1973. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 730 pp.

USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.